Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using

2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

3   reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and

4   storing the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least

5 one or more items presented for purchase in a current transaction, such that the item-identifying

6 RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a shopper can subsequently be

7 searched to determine whether the at least one items were presented for purchase in the current

8 transaction.

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the customer identifier

2 is read with an RFID reader from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty

3 card.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the [[step]]

2 steps of:

3   subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the shopper, the

4 item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from

5 the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and

6   for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer

7 identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, concluding that the item to which the

8 item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was at least some of one or more items possessed by a

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9   shopper were not paid for in the current transaction if the customer identifier is not present in an

10   RFID tag affixed to each such item.

1   Claim 4 (currently amended): A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency

2   identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

3   reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier;

4   searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying

5   RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the customer

6   loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and

7   concluding that one or more selected ones at least some of the one or more items

8   possessed by [[a]] the shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the

9   searching step fails to locate the customer identifier is not present in the [[an]] RFID tag affixed

10   to each such item the selected ones.

1   Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, wherein the customer identifier

2   is read from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1   Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of

2   storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the one or

3   more items[[,]] when the items [[were]] are presented for purchase during the particular purchase

4   transaction, prior to operation of the searching concluding step.

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1   Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of

2   remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an

3   establishment in which [[a]] the particular purchase transaction represented by the receipt was

4   conducted, and wherein the searching and concluding steps omit do not apply to the remembered

5   items.

1   Claim 8 (currently amended): A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using

2   radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3   means for reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and

4   means for storing the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each

5   of at least one or more items presented for purchase in a current transaction, such that the item-

6   identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a shopper can

7   subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one items were presented for purchase

8   in the current transaction.

1   Claim 9 (currently amended): The system according to Claim [[7]] 8, wherein the customer

2   identifier is read with an RFID reader from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer

3   loyalty card.

1   Claim 10 (currently amended): The system according to Claim [[7]] 8, further comprising:

2   means for subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the

3   shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer

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4   identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and

5   for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer

6   identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, means for concluding that the item to

7   which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was ~~at least some of one or more items possessed~~

8   ~~by a shopper were~~ not paid for in the current transaction ~~if the customer identifier is not present~~

9   ~~in an RFID tag affixed to each such item.~~

Claim 11 (canceled)

1   Claim 12 (currently amended): A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency

2   identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3   means for reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer

4   identifier; and

5   means for searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-

6   identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the

7   customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and

8   means for concluding that one or more selected ones ~~at least some of~~ the ~~one or more~~

9   items possessed by [[a]] the shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the

10   means for searching fails to locate the customer identifier ~~is not present~~ in the [[an]] RFID tag

11   affixed to ~~each such item~~ the selected ones.

1   Claim 13 (currently amended): The system according to Claim [[10]] 12, wherein the customer

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2   identifier is read from [[an]] <u>a loyalty card</u> RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1   Claim 14 (currently amended): The system according to Claim [[10]] <u>12</u>, further comprising

2   means for storing the customer identifier in the <u>item-identifying</u> RFID tag affixed to each of <u>the</u>

3   ~~one or more items~~[[,]] when the items [[were]] <u>are</u> presented for purchase <u>during the particular</u>

4   <u>purchase transaction,</u> prior to operation of the means for ~~concluding~~ <u>searching</u>.

1   Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer program product for preparing information usable in

2   theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program

3   product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4   computer-readable program code means for reading a customer identifier from a customer

5   loyalty card; and

6   computer-readable program code means for storing the customer identifier in an <u>item-</u>

7   <u>identifying</u> RFID tag affixed to each of <u>at least</u> one ~~or more~~ items presented for purchase in a

8   current transaction<u>, such that the RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a</u>

9   <u>shopper can subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one items were presented</u>

10   <u>for purchase in the current transaction.</u>

1   Claim 16 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim [[13]] <u>15</u>,

2   wherein the customer identifier is read <u>with an RFID reader</u> from [[an]] <u>a loyalty card</u> RFID tag

3   affixed to the customer loyalty card.

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1   Claim 17 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim [[13]] 15,

2   further comprising:

3   computer-readable program code means for subsequently searching, for each of the at

4   least one items possessed by the shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to

5   determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored

6   therein; and

7   for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer

8   identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, computer-readable program code

9   means for concluding that the item to which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was at least

10   some of one or more items possessed by a shopper were not paid for in the current transaction if

11   the customer identifier is not present in an RFID tag affixed to each such item.

1   Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer program product for detecting potential theft using

2   radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on

3   one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4   computer-readable program code means for reading, from a customer loyalty card

5   possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier; and

6   computer-readable program code means for searching, for each of at least one items

7   possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether

8   the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a

9   particular purchase transaction; and

10   computer-readable program code means for concluding that one or more selected ones at

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11   ~~least some of~~ the ~~one or more~~ items possessed by [[a]] the shopper were not paid for in the

12   particular purchase transaction if the computer-readable program code means for searching fails

13   to locate the customer identifier ~~is not present~~ in the [[an]] RFID tag affixed ~~to each such item~~

14   the selected ones.

1   Claim 19 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim [[16]] 18,

2   wherein the customer identifier is read from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the

3   customer loyalty card.

1   Claim 20 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim [[16]] 18,

2   further comprising computer-readable program code means for storing the customer identifier in

3   the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the ~~one or more~~ items[[,]] when the items

4   [[were]] are presented for purchase during the particular purchase transaction, prior to operation

5   of the computer-readable program code means for ~~concluding~~ searching.

Claim 21 (canceled)

1   Claim 22 (new): The system according to Claim 12, further comprising means for remembering

2   each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in

3   which the particular purchase transaction was conducted, and wherein the means for searching

4   and means for concluding omit the remembered items.

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1   Claim 23 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 18, further comprising

2   computer-readable program code means for remembering each item that was in the shopper's

3   possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which the particular purchase

4   transaction was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for

5   searching and computer-readable program code means for concluding omit the remembered

6   items.

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